

of Ms. Martinez's class passed the test, which allows them to advance onto fourth grade.

Starting this year, third graders will be among the 2 million elementary, middle and high school students taking a TAKS test. Students who do not pass the exam will have two more opportunities to pass the TAKS test.

I would personally like to congratulate Ms. Martinez and her third grade class on an outstanding job in the preparing for and taking the TAKS test and their advancement onto the fourth grade next year.

Schools are a reflection of our community and it takes everyone working together to make them quality institutions. The administration, teachers, staff, students and their families should be commended for their hard work and dedication in preparing the children of Fenley-Flanders Elementary for their performance on the TAKS tests.

CONGRATULATING UNITED  
STATES CAPITOL POLICE ON  
175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 156, honoring the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the police force.

Congress established the Capitol Police during the administration of John Quincy Adams. Ponder how different the world was then, when the U.S. Congress was a young and largely untested deliberative body located in a relatively isolated town that was as much wilderness as it was settled territory.

In the last 175 years, the world has changed immeasurably, and so has the work of the Capitol Police.

Today the U.S. Capitol—which is simultaneously a national shrine, tourist attraction, and working office building—imposes extraordinary security requirements.

For example, more than three million tourists visited the Capitol complex in 2000. At the same time, the Capitol hosted more than 1,200 American and foreign dignitaries and 1,000 special events, and was the site of nearly 500 scheduled demonstrations. In addition to lawmakers and their staffs, a sizable number of journalists, concerned citizens, lobbyists, and service personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

To address these security requirements while keeping Congress as open and accessible as the Framers of the Constitution intended, the mission of the Capitol Police has expanded to provide the Congressional community and visitors with the highest possible quality of a full range of police services. These services are provided through the use of a variety of specialty support units and a network of foot patrols, vehicular patrols, and fixed posts.

In modern times, the Capitol Police have also had to cope with emergencies, bombings and shootings, including the tragic 1998 murders of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, that remain so painfully fresh in our memories.

After that tragic event, Congress properly heightened Capitol security, adopting a pos-

ture that requires considerable additional manpower. Recent events in the Middle East and elsewhere have obviously underscored the need for more officers and greater security. Fortunately, additional resources have been provided.

Congress has appropriated money to fund all the additional officers the Capitol Police can hire and train. Supplemental funds have also been provided to address needs identified since September 11, 2001.

Today, the Capitol Police face evolving threats from those who, for whatever reason, wish our country and our democracy harm. What was unthinkable only 18 months ago, has been done. We must remain vigilant and prepared as we work to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism and preserve and expand the promise of peace and democracy.

We will continue to rely on the Capitol Police as the first line of defense for the People's House and all who work and visit here.

The men and women of the Capitol Police meet their challenges with courage and a level of professionalism not exceeded anywhere. Since the dastardly attacks of September 11, and again after the heightened security level of the past few months, Capitol Police officers, under the able leadership of Chief Terrance Gainer, have worked long hours under adverse conditions. These men and women clearly represent the best that America has to offer.

I want to express my personal thanks for a job well done and wish the United States Capitol Police a sincere and happy 175th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the H. Con. Res. 156.

COMMENDING THE CENTER FOR  
RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR WEST VIRGINIA

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an exceptional organization in West Virginia on its receipt of a prestigious certification of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Center for Rural Health Development has been working since 1994 to make sure that West Virginians in rural communities have access to the highest standards of health care services. Its dedicated Board of Directors and professional staff have worked effectively to bring essential infrastructure, equipment, technical assistance, and skilled health care providers of all types to rural counties in our beloved State.

Ever mindful of the fact that a community's economic health is linked to the quality of its health care delivery system, the center has played a vital role in the growth and development of many rural and underserved areas, opening up opportunities for jobs, both in health care fields and in new businesses attracted to the high quality of life in West Virginia.

Its loan partners in the private sector and sponsors, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Appalachian Regional Commission

and the State of West Virginia, have long recognized the financial expertise of the Center for Rural Health Development.

It is now my pleasure to note that the U.S. Department of the Treasury, through its Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, has certified the Center for Rural Health Development as a "Community Development Financial Institution". The CDFI designation is a testament to high standards of practice and exceptional results, and serves as a signal to financial markets and West Virginia communities that the confidence they place in the Center for Rural Health Development is well deserved.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Center for Rural Health Development and its Director, Ms. Sharon Lansdale, on its CDFI certification, and in expressing our appreciation for the vital role they have played in the lives of so many West Virginians.

PROCLAMATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 3, 2003, the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, in concert with Black Pilots of America will honor three of aviation's pioneer women of color, Bessie Coleman, Willa Beatrice Brown and Janet Harmon;

Bessie Coleman journeyed to France in 1920 to enter the field of aviation, planning to return to America to open an aviation program for African Americans; and

Bessie Coleman died on April 30, 1926, while preparing for an air show to benefit the Negro Welfare League of Jacksonville, Florida;

In 1939, Willa B. Brown held a limited commercial pilot's license issued by the United States Commerce Department; and

Managed the Coffey School of Aeronautics, which was awarded a government contract to train the first group of African-American aviators, and was the first African-American woman to hold a United States Civil Air Patrol Commission;

Janet Harmon was one of the first African-American women to purchase an airplane, which she then made available to the Challenger Air Pilots Association for training purposes; and

Served as surrogate advisor to the first group of African-American aviation cadets for the United States Army Air Force;

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Danny K. Davis, duly elected by the people of the Illinois 7th Congressional District, do hereby join with the "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, in concert with Black Pilots of America hereby proclaim;

Saturday, May 3, 2003, to be the day we celebrate as Aviation Pioneer Women of Color Day in Chicago and all over America; and urge all people to take note of the pioneering contributions to aviation made by these women of color;

Done, this 3rd day of May, 2003.